



Evropská unie
Evropský sociální fond
Operační program Zaměstnanost



ČESKÉ
PRIORITY

Final Report: Executive Summary

Analýza nákladů a přínosů u vybraných sociálně inovačních projektů –
Cochemský model v ČR

České priority



Executive Summary

The final report summarizes the outputs of the project from the public procurement entitled "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Selected Social Innovation Projects - Cochem Model in the Czech Republic". As part of the procurement, the feasibility of a comprehensive CBA was analyzed and the concrete steps necessary for calculation of CBA for the project "Cochem Model in the Czech Republic" were examined. The outputs of this analysis are part of this final report. In addition, a separate document "Preparation and Use of CBA – A Practical Guide in the Context of Social Innovation Projects" was created and as such serves as a guide that summarizes recommendations for the development of CBA practice in the field of social innovation projects.

The Cochem model project strengthens interdisciplinary cooperation in divorce proceedings with a goal to minimize the negative impact of the proceedings on the children of divorcing parents. In the first part of the analysis, an ideal CBA structure was developed based on a literature review and expert interviews to identify the main impacts of the Cochem Model that should be reflected in the following calculation of CBA. These impacts include primarily the impacts on the children of divorcing parents (on their future education, income, labor market participation, substance abuse or criminality). The Cochem model intervention may also have impacts on the burden of social workers, administrative costs of the court or on the divorcing parents themselves. In the next step, the CBA of the evaluation report (Květoň & Fanta, 2020A) of the project was analyzed in terms of the identified impacts and the methodology of calculations.

The results of the first part of the analysis showed that a comprehensive CBA cannot be calculated, as data for the key impacts (on children of divorcing parents) of the intervention were not collected. An ideal evaluation would rely on long-term research on children's adolescence, which would allow the target group to be followed over a long period of time. In the absence of such data, it would be possible to create an experimental design that would at least provide data on the intensity of the child's trauma and about their relationship with the parents.

Apart from the absence of data, another major obstacle to the calculation of CBA is the possible variability of the intervention between different judges and courts, as the Cochem model in the studied intervention was fundamentally linked to the person of one particular judge, which reduces the external validity of the evaluation. According to several experts, it is likely that elements of interdisciplinarity (which are also part of the Cochem approach) were implemented to varying degrees in the control group (Teplice and Chomutov). Thus, it is not appropriate to attribute the differences between the courts in the intervention and control groups to the Cochem approach. A possible solution would be to involve more such courts and judges in the experiment where the Cochem practice is not present in any form.

In the second part of the analysis, the calculation of a comprehensive CBA was not carried out due to lack of data. However, several expert estimates were made that focused on selected impacts: savings in social worker time and savings on the court side. The estimates are partial and therefore they cannot be used to assess the overall benefits of a given intervention (and compare them to the costs), nor can they be reliably used to estimate impacts at scale. The data only provide rough estimates of impacts on individual and often very specific actors. However, they do provide an example of how expert estimates can be used to replace the missing data and supplement monetised impacts from more robust sources (such as own experiment or literature).

Since a CBA cannot be calculated for the Cochem model, it is not possible to assess the benefits and costs of upscaling. A major obstacle to the potential intervention's upscaling is its vague definition and dependence on the individuals involved.